

Almarante Fire District

Meeting Minutes October 10, 2024

Call to order at 1830 hours.

Roll call

Fire Commissioners Present: David Brown, Dottie Roberts, Terry Kline, Judson Danner and Scott Money Penny. Absent: None

Chief Officers present: Chief Ryan Jaycocks and Deputy Chief Dennis Folkerts

Members Present:

Visitors: Mack Wilkins

Minutes Review and Financial Report

Minutes reviewed. Motion to approve the September minutes made by Commissioner Roberts, Seconded by Commissioner Money Penny; All voted "aye".

Financial report presented. Motion to approve made by Commissioner Danner Seconded by Commissioner Kline; All voted "aye".

Recommendation to transfer funds from carry over to equipment until forestry grant is received. Motion made by Commissioner Money Penny seconded by Commissioner Danner; All voted "aye" to move \$15,814.93 from carry over to equipment fund. AED grant of \$1000.00 was received and placed into the equipment category.

Chief made suggestion to have old business first followed by new business after the financial report from here on out. All agreed.

Old Business

- a. Balance from attorney McGinnis is \$1,150.00. Commissioner Money Penny spoke to Okaloosa County Clerk of the Court J.D. Peacock concerning the fees. Peacock referred the discussion to Okaloosa County Commissioner Paul Mixon who then referred discussion to Public Safety Chief Patrick Maddox. Kathleen Money Penny spoke to Maddox. The County does not authorize reimbursement. Commissioner Money Penny does not feel the citizens should have to pay for attorney fees. Chief Jaycocks added - discussion previous board was aware of bills and did not stop. Money Penny still believes the citizens of Almarante should not have to incur those expenses. Commissioner Kline said they were going on good faith. Commissioner

Brown said we should pay for services. All agreed. Still try to seek a reimbursement for legal fees as the Almarante Board of Commissioners was not made aware of the contract for Dorcas Fire District by former Chief Parsh. Motion made by Commissioner Money Penny; seconded by Commissioner Roberts. All voted "aye".

- b. Judson questioned Firehouse sub grant. Will have to apply next grant schedule.

New business

- a. Third reading of the FY25 budget. Motion to approve by Commissioner Roberts; Seconded by Commissioner Kline. All voted "aye" with the following minor change: Adjust the training budget by \$787.19 to correct math. Then post on website.
- b. Report from Auditor. Mr. Chapman will not be able to do the audit this year. He will offer his services for bookkeeping. His fee will be \$75.00 per hour for 4-5 hour per month approximately \$300-\$375 with an estimate of approximately \$4,500.00 year. He will need approximately 20 hours to set up the books for the future auditor. Money Penny discussed that the annual audit for Dorcas was over \$30,000. Suggest an RFP for new audit or seek a firm to complete. Mentioned Monique Hall. Discussion on Quick Books. All findings in the past have been Mr. Chapman does not like spreadsheets. Need a new auditor and to not take action on Mr. Chapman's proposal at this time. Judson asked about Geneva Tax and will see if they are interested. He will let the Chief know his findings. Mr. Brown to reach out to Mr. Chapman concerning this. If special meeting is required, will notify in 2 weeks.
- c. National Forestry request 50/50 or 100% grant for 3 sets of PPE for 3 members. 10-year life. NAFECO best quote \$8,054, MES \$10,854, Fire Tech \$9,100.00. Recommend NAFECO quote as they have a good product. 2 Firefighters do not fit and 1 is expiring. Motion made by Commissioner Money Penny; Seconded by Commissioner Danner. All approved
- d. Chaplain: Commissioner Money Penny spoke to the National Chaplains Association. Charles Carroll had expressed he would like position. 1st year fee \$125. Annual is \$100.00. He would need a letter from Fire Chief for appointment and also a letter from his pastor for a recommendation with enthusiasm. Falls under Chief purchasing the chief would be able to approve on the operational expense side if he wanted to accept position.
- e. Thanksgiving dinner for 10 families. Deputy Chief Folkerts spoke on baskets. Commissioner Danner spoke on Winn Dixie providing gift certificates for whole dinners instead of baskets. Cost to be out of Fire fighter Incentive Fund or Almarante Fire Fighter Funds. Donations pledged for \$500.00

- f. Ethics compliance the chief will email everyone to take course for ethics. \$175.00 total for yearly special districts fee.
- g. Calls for service for September: Fire related: 5, EMS: 19, LZ: 3, Vehicle crashes: 5

Chiefs Report

Financial report reimbursement from County for Dorcas calls \$770.20 next month \$186.00 Recommend 70/30 Vehicle maintenance/Fuel for line item posting in financial report.

Forestry grant not received yet. All submitted approximately \$10,000 returning unless it is 100%.

Wells Fargo Bank account. Parsh removed Folkerts installed.

AED received from the Foundation grant has been put in service

New hydrants on Hwy 2 installed and mapped out.

Application for FL Firefighter Assistance Grant zero match. 5 SCBA units for a total cost of \$56,899.30. Motion made by Commissioner Money Penny to submit the grant; seconded by Danner. All voted "aye".

Goals and objectives: Website continue recruitment and retain member update on website.

Engine 54 which is a 1997 HME has the final payment balance due in 2025 of \$18,500. Zero interest need to pay in 2025. Discussion only.

Big trucks are a problem with maintenance issues. 1 truck has a fuel leak issue.

Discussion on alternatives while being repaired.

Dorcas Firetruck may be an option?

Engine 52 or 55 if we need to use.

Discussion of Dependent Dorcas and Almarante and BOCC.

Deputy Chief Folkerts received a car for cut up/training. We have a volunteer that would like to purchase for \$650.00 if board of Commissioners would approve. Is prior owner ok for Almarante to sell. Chief to verify with prior owner if she is ok for us to sell. Chief to verify selling if approved put in 501C account for new shirts. Open title verified. Discussed that the board never received the vehicle and in essence, "donated" it to the 501C firefighter organization.

Seth Danner expressed an interest to join as a junior FF. Just needs to be present and fill out application.

Kline discussed shirts and sizes.

Money Penny mentioned upcoming Hunters Safety class on Oct 19, 2024

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Roberts; Seconded by Commissioner Danner. All voted "aye". Meeting adjourned at

Chairman David Brown _____ Date _____